

CLAIMS

1. A low power radio frequency transceiver arranged to form a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising:
a transmitter for transmitting packets of data; and
means for controlling the transmitter to transmit a series of messages of a first type outside the network of transceivers, characterised by means for punctuating the series of messages of a first type with messages of a second type, transmitted within the network of transceivers, for maintaining synchronisation.
2. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 1 arranged to operate as a master of the radio network of slave transceivers.
3. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the network of transceivers uses a first frequency hopping sequence.
4. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in claim 3 wherein the messages of a first type transmitted outside the network of transceivers are transmitted using a second frequency hopping sequence.
5. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the messages of the second type are broadcast.
6. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the means for punctuating, punctuates the series of messages of a first type with a message of a second type periodically.
7. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the messages of the second type do not initiate a response from any of the transceivers in the network.
8. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the messages of the second type comprise a synchronisation word dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

9. A low power radio frequency transceiver as claimed in any preceding claim wherein messages of the second type are transmitted at a frequency dependent upon the identity of the transmitting low power radio frequency transceiver.

10. A method of maintaining synchronisation in a network of communicating low power radio frequency transceivers comprising a master transceiver and at least one slave transceiver characterised by the step of:

punctuating a series of messages of a first type transmitted by the master transceiver outside the network of transceivers, with messages of a second type transmitted within the network of communicating transceivers for maintaining synchronisation.

11. A storage medium for data, comprising computer code for providing, in a low power radio frequency transceiver, means for punctuating transmission of a series of messages of a first type comprising a first synchronisation word independent of the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver, with messages of a second type comprising a synchronisation word dependent upon the identity of the low power radio frequency transceiver.